

BIRDS ARE HELP TO AGRICULTURE

Pesky English Sparrow Is Usually Nuisance and Often Injurious to Crops.

CROWS AND BLACKBIRDS BAD

Owls Have Long Been Persecuted, but Never Has Persecution Been More Unjust—Feed on Rats, Mice and Other Mammals.

(Prepared by the United States Department)

The sparrow is a beneficial bird, says the biological survey, United States Department of Agriculture, and should not be regarded as a pest. The small, silent, dark-colored bird, known as the English sparrow, is usually a nuisance and often injurious, and, says the department in a booklet, "Farm Help From the Birds," it must be controlled. The English sparrow is but one member of the large family of sparrows and its habits are by no means characteristic of the native species."

Few Birds Classed as Injurious.

The most injurious birds to the sparrows, but they consume also a fair proportion of insects, the department finds, and in general must be regarded as beneficial. Separating the sheep from their nests is feathered among the common knowledge of the farmer, the commonest place among the bad birds the jays, crows, ravens and blackbirds, a corporal's guard with the army of good birds, to the farmer, the most injurious of all the birds.

Even the bad denizens of the air have some good in them, says the department, and the damage they do the farmer is largely because of overpopulation in the feathered ranks. Of

that:

"It would seem a good policy to accord them the same treatment long given the common crow. The crow is not specially persecuted; neither is it



protected. About the best that can be said of birds of this family is that on the average they do about as much good as harm."

Owls Perform Useful Services.

"Owls as a group have long been persecuted by man, but never has persecution been more unjust," says the biological survey. More than 50 varieties of owls are found in the United States and have useful habits, the booklet continues. In Washington, D. C., the survey recently determined what 675 barn owls had for dinner. Here is the record, by variety and number of dishes served: Barn owl, 59,000 miles, 134; house, 452; horned, 34; other small mammals, 3 per owl. And the service done by the barn owl, the booklet says, is typical of that performed by hawks and owls in general. An occasional screech is consumed, but this loss is far outweighed by the destruction of harmful rodents.

CHECK OFF NEEDED REPAIRS

Good Plan to Make Note of Defects When Machinery Is Being Put Away for Winter.

When the farm machinery is being put away for winter, the owner can probably check off the materials that will be necessary before each machine can go out again next season. A five-cent pad of paper nailed to the door of the implement shed is suggested. The plan is to make a check-off list of parts needed at the Mississ. College of Agriculture. Well-worn horses are now being used extensively in the hog-producing centers of the South, and satisfactory feeding should be now being produced. The feed for the horses should be made by the use of sweet-potato cannery wastes, these materials having valuable fattening properties. In large peanut-growing districts gains are put on at a comparatively low cost.

TOO MUCH HAY IS INJURIOUS

"Haybilly" in Work Horse Is Induced by Prolonged Overfeeding on Bulky Roughage.

BUILDING IN SASKATCHEWAN

About 200 Miles of Road in Course of Construction to Cost at Least \$200,000.

Road work totaling about 200 miles and costing at least \$200,000, is now under way in the province, or about to commence, says Saskatchewan as part of the federal aid scheme. Some of the work is being done under contracts awarded by the Saskatchewan department of highways, while other sections are being constructed by departmental day labor gangs.

Plow Under Straw.

Don't burn straw or hay. Plow it under if it's full of seed and insects persist. If it's up in a square-sided, flat-topped compost stack and when it's properly fermented, spread it on the garden or truck patch.

Snow Broccoli, Corn.

The broccoli and peeling cobs that you used during the past summer should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and stored away indoors for use again next season.

Cause of Sick Fowls.

Poultry houses are frequent causes of colds. Damaged floors, leaky roofs, draughty houses or the lack of ventilation will cause sick fowls.

Plow Points and Disk.

Before preparing land, see that the plow points and disks are sharp. A good grindstone, hooked onto a small engine will do the work in quick time.

Buy Certified Seed.

Buy certified seed from a reliable dealer.

DURABILITY OF WOOD CUT IN COLD MONTHS

Method of Handling Logs Has Greatest Influence.

Fungi and Insects Are Conspicuous by Their Absence in Winter Seasons. There Is No Difference in Moisture Content.

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Handling logs often influences the durability of wood cut in cold months.

With the lengthening of skirts irregular hem are more in evidence than ever. The hem of a woman's skirt almost always hangs on one side, while the other side of the skirt is much shorter and cut straight across.

This effect extends even to evening dresses, which are often cut so that the skirt is longer on one side and fall in a point to the hem, or even below the hem. Topcoats sometimes wrap completely around the figure and close in on either side of the back.

The evening dressmaker is in constant use in evening dresses, and often it is used on the skirt the uneven decoration is used, that is, one shoulder is covered, while the drapery, while the other is bare. A topcoat is made, which holds the bodice in place. The oblique line, however, does not pass under the arm, but is definitely a shoulder line.

A considerable number of these evening dresses are extremely well cut, but the cutting in side seam is held with chiffon or net, which may or may not be snipped or embrasured.

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